

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 190
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
APRIL 6, 2010
3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

Councilmembers Present: Mendoza, Beeson (arrived at 3:07 p.m.), McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor Krieger
Councilmembers Absent: Stuart
Staffmembers Present: Acting City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson
Director of Community Development, Laurie Lineberry
Building Official, Randy Crist
Director of Information Technology Services, Laurie Neinast
Traffic Engineer, Dan Sanders
Director of Finance, Pat Wicks
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Clerk, Brigitta M. Kuiper

Wilkinson expressed his appreciation to City Councilmembers and City staff for their help in his transition to Acting City Administrator.

I. OPTIONAL PERMITS FOR WATER HEATERS AND WINDOWS

Lineberry explained that the City currently requires permits for the installation of water heaters and windows. Because there are a number of people, including local contractors, who know how to perform these installations, the City Council has questioned the need for the City to continue their oversight. Staff has prepared information on the issue.

Crist presented the following information:

- The authority to impose permits derives from the 2003 International Residential Code, Section 105.1
- Window inspections check for:
 - Adequate emergency exit size and height
 - Glazing of windows in hazardous locations – in areas with the highest risk of people falling into windows
 - For new and/or enlarged window installations:
 - Adequate framing – header and trimmer - support
 - Proper weatherization
 - Energy efficiency features
- Water heater inspections check for:
 - Gas
 - Test gas lines and pressure
 - Combustion air intake
 - Adequate ventilation

- Electric
 - Electrical connections
- For both gas and electric
 - Pedestal and seismic strapping
 - Temperature and pressure value and piping
 - Location of appliance/pan – enclosed if outside

Crist pointed out the safety issues and specific requirements involved in each of the features inspectors review. He displayed pictures to illustrate the required features and underscore potential consequences of improper installations.

- Costs
 - Window permit fees are determined based on the total valuation of the job.
 - Pre 2006: window permit fees equated to \$208 for a 10-window change-out.
 - Post 2006: window permit fees equated to \$100 for a 10-window change-out.
 - Water heater permits: flat fee of \$22
 - Based on the inspection requirements, Staff is open to reducing the window permit fee.
- “Optional permits” means permits are not required
- Benefits of optional permits:
 - Eliminate cost to homeowners/contractors
 - Homeowner/contractor would not have to accommodate inspection visit(s)
 - Standardize local practices – some contractors are not pulling permits now.
- Concerns re: optional permits:
 - No assurance of safe and compliant installation
 - Improper installations may cause maintenance issues and repairs.
 - Permits issued to homeowners/contractors would protect owners from incompetent vendors
- Residential Advisory Board (RAD) – recommendations
 - Allow optional permits for licensed contractors for window installations where the header is not modified.
 - Allow optional permits for licensed contractors for installation of electric water heaters only.
 - Develop contractor training program for window and electric water heater installations.

Discussion

- Could do-it-yourselfers take advantage of the training? How could the City help ensure that windows and water heaters are being put in correctly?
 - The City could produce detailed installation pamphlets, which could be distributed by local home improvement stores when customers buy these products.

II. YUMA REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Neinast introduced the City Council to the Yuma Regional Communication System (YRCS) project explaining that in 1999 the City of Yuma undertook the development of a Telecommunications Strategic Plan. The plan recommended the sharing of communications systems with other public safety entities to enhance interoperability while sharing costs. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 added new impetus to integrate communications, which led the federal government to offer grants for joint efforts. The City and Yuma County formed the YRCS Council and worked to implement an interoperable radio system,

which has been very successful. Given this success and continued federal funding, the YRCS Council has decided to move forward with a second phase, a Multi-Jurisdictional Integrated Public Safety [software] System (MIPSS).

Primary objectives and opportunities

- Provide the most efficient and flexible means of sharing information between the various agencies – enhanced operability
- Provides opportunity to modernize operations and design a system to best support current law enforcement and fire department operations
- Take advantage of large grants to replace outdated systems
- Provide capability for any participating agency to quickly relocate in emergency/catastrophic situation
- Share system operational and maintenance costs

Participating agencies:

City of Yuma – law enforcement and fire	Cocopah Tribe – law enforcement
Yuma County Sheriff's Office	Town of Wellton – law enforcement and fire
City of Somerton – law enforcement	Quechan Tribe – law enforcement
City of Somerton/Cocopah Tribe - fire	Possible future participants:
City of San Luis – law enforcement and fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MCAS▪ Yuma Proving Ground

Modules in the software system would provide full integration of the following:

- Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch – an integration of Geographic Information System (GIS) and 9-1-1 dispatch
- Law enforcement and records management
- Jail and in-mate management
- Fire Department and records management
- Emergency Medical Services and records management
- Mobile data/field computing
- Automatic vehicle location – if desired

Continuing, **Neinast** drew attention to a list of project benefits, summarizing that the MIPSS project offers numerous benefits from the use of advanced technologies, automation capabilities and centralized data storage. The Yuma Police Department (YPD) and Yuma Fire Department (YFD) began using computers to manage their record system in 1983 and moved through several iterations to reach the system being used today, which was installed in 1999. In 2004, a Public Safety Information Technology Needs Assessment was performed for the City by Dorsey Pages; it recommended a complete system replacement. However, funding prohibited following through with that recommendation at that time. YPD and YFD continue to struggle with their systems because the software is unable to provide a number of key functions needed in today's environment. The Information Technology Services Department dedicates four employees specifically to YPD and YFD communications needs; another 14 are on call for help in specific technological areas.

Wilkinson explained that from the beginning staff realized the project would need to be funded by grants. To date, the project has gathered \$4 million in grants to work with; none of the grants require matching funds. The grants come from multiple sources - Homeland Security, the Departments of Justice and Commerce, as well as the Stone Garden grant. A group of 30+ people, representing all of the participating agencies, developed the project proposal and went through the process of evaluating vendor responses. Two

vendors were chosen from the five who responded; none of the responding vendors were local. Each of the top two vendors demonstrated their products for a full week; New World Systems was chosen as the top candidate. Thereafter, a group of ten people traveled to the Midwest for multiple on-site visits with current users of the New World Systems product. There is enough money already in had for the City and County to fully implement the system; the other entities would be included on the contract as optional users, making it possible for them to come online as new grant funds become available. This system is a huge step forward.

Proposed contract stipulations:

- The entire project and the first two years of maintenance and support will be funded by grants.
- After the first two years, each agency will be responsible for its pro-rata share of maintenance and support costs, based on current population census data.
- A YRCS technical support and business plan are under development at this time.
- The 10-year term of the contract affords cost savings.

Interoperability design and approach

- Each agency will house, manage and maintain separate systems and data records
- Interoperability will be achieved via security rights and telecommunication connectivity
- Design allows agencies to be added or removed as desired

Wilkinson presented the financial plan, noting that more of the funds will be spent in implementing the system in YPD than YFD because of the nature of their respective responsibilities. Preliminary estimates show the following:

Cost Comparison – Over Ten Year Period			
	HTE System**	Proposed System*	Est. Cost Savings
YPD	1,837,343.20	796,833.00	1,040,510.20
YFD	96,409.55	398,667.00	(302,257.45)
Total ten-year cost savings			738,252.75

** current system with 5% increase

*non-negotiated

In conclusion, **Wilkinson** noted that it is in the City's best interests to stay with a stable company over a period of time; implementing this system will involve a lot of work. Staff intends to bring to the City Council a request on April 21, 2010 to negotiate and execute a contract with New World Systems. The total value of the contract is estimated at \$8.5 million over ten years.

Discussion

- The estimates are proposed figures; they have not been negotiated to date. Negotiations will undoubtedly result in lower costs.
- The annual cost for maintaining the current software is \$160,000; costs for maintaining the New World System are significantly less and HTE is antiquated and is not performing well.
- The City would be saving \$160,000 each year out of General Fund expenses once it contracts with New World Systems and no maintenance costs would be felt by the General Fund for two years. When the grant funds run out, the General Fund will begin paying the maintenance costs; however, they will total less than \$160,000 for an estimated 6 years.

III. TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMING

Sanders briefed the City Council on traffic signal operational options available to the City for managing multiple and conflicting traffic streams through a single and multiple intersections. He explained the following information:

Traffic signal operations can be adjusted by:

- The amount of time each traffic stream is given
- The order of each of the streams and how it is combined with others
- How the above is integrated with neighboring intersections

Sanders walked the City Council through various scenarios showing how intersection cycles, timing, and phasing all play a role in the complex handling of traffic. Left turns, in particular, are problematic because they conflict with through-traffic.

Types

- Permissive left-turns: allowed only when there are safe gaps in the opposing through-traffic – no green arrow
- Protected left-turns: allowed only on a green arrow – currently being used at the 16th Street/Arizona Avenue intersection
- Protected-permissive left-turn combinations: Left turn yield on green

Phasing

- Leading left-turns: allowed immediately before the opposing through traffic
- Lagging left-turns: allowed immediately after the opposing through traffic
- Lead-lag phasing: a combination of leading/lagging left turns

Sanders illustrated the above movements with pictures of various City intersections where they occur. Lagging left-turns are allowed in order to ensure safety at intersections that are skewed; to clear traffic that has little room to stack and enhance traffic flow along a series of signals. Using simulation technology, **Sanders** demonstrated the use of leading and lead-lag left-turns at 32nd Street, pointing out that the cycle time remained the same; however, with lead-lag left-turns traffic flowed unobstructed through the signals with lead-lag phasing; unobstructed flow is the goal for traffic management on major streets. Lagging left-turns are not out of the ordinary; they are used by departments of transportation nationwide and in numerous Arizona communities; Yuma has some limited experience with them. The Traffic Engineering Division intends to use more lead-lag left-turn phasing to improve traffic safety and efficiency in the community.

Discussion

- There have been studies of leading and lagging left-turns in terms of their safety. When, the left-turns are protected there is no statistical difference between them. Some studies in the 1990's showed lagging left-turns to be more dangerous, however, they were unprotected left-turns.
- The intersection can be set up so that left-turns are allowed when no oncoming traffic is present, even with a green light. Unprotected leading left-turns pose greater safety concerns.
- Citizens have asked about using lagging left-turns.

- Traffic signals are timed to coincide with posted speeds. In communities where there are signs stating that traffic signals are timed to the speed limit, it has effectively helped drivers comply with the speed limit.
- Each intersection is specific yet interrelated to the whole, so the timing and phasing of each one must be considered individually.

IV. CITY OF YUMA HEALTH PLAN

Wicks explained that the City of Yuma has participated in the Yuma Area Benefit Consortium (YABC) for approximately 5 years to provide health insurance for its employees. YABC is comprised of Yuma Elementary School District #1, Arizona Western College and Crane School District. The City will be able to avoid raising health insurance costs for an unprecedented fourth year, in part, because of its membership in YABC. Consumerism in health care is a new concept that is becoming more popular nationwide. It offers a new way to manage health care costs by involving health care consumers in their health care decisions. This year the City will offer employees a plan based on this concept, a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) and Health Savings Account.

Comparison of the features of the available options:

Traditional (Current) Plan	HDHP & Health Savings Account (HSA)
Premiums	Premiums
▪ City pays \$500/month	▪ City pays \$400 per month
	▪ City pays \$100 per month into employee HSA
Claims	Claims
▪ Plan pays 85% after \$250/ year deductible	▪ Plan pays 85% after \$1,500/ year deductible
▪ Employee pays:	▪ Employee pays:
— 20% co-pay for doctor visits	— Doctor visits (no co-pay) at BCBS rates
— 10% co-pay or % of cost for prescriptions	— Prescription costs (no co-pay) at BCBS rates
— Hospital costs	— Hospital costs
▪ Maximum out of pocket costs \$1,500	▪ Maximum out of pocket costs \$1,500
Employee pays with:	Employee pays with:
▪ cash	▪ cash
▪ Flex 125 Plan funds	▪ Health Savings Account funds

Health Savings Account (HSA)

- Contributions into the account are made by the employee and the employer up to an Internal Revenue Service defined annual limit
- Funds can be used for any medical care for self, spouse and/or dependents and are tax free (with certain stipulations)
- The Flex 125 Plan is a use-it-or-lose-it plan; the HSA plan is not a use-it-or-lose-it plan.
- Funds can be accumulated over multiple years; can be built up for retirement years with tax-free interest
- Must be held in conjunction with an HDHP.

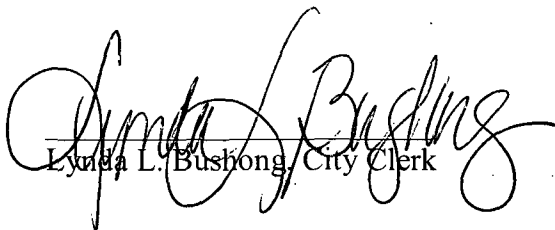
Councilmember Beeson left the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Discussion

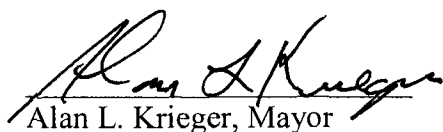
- The system is more complicated on an individual basis; employees will be briefed on its intricacies so they understand the choice. It is anticipated that not many will opt to use it the first year; though over a period of time the City should see a reduction in costs.
- The family deductible is \$3,000.
- Medical providers may agree to be paid over time, given that those using this plan are responsible for paying the full amount for doctor visits and hospital services.
- The arrangement incentivizes healthy living.
- Gives employees a way to directly affect their health care costs.
- This option is available to people on an individual basis and individuals may switch back to the traditional plan should they wish to do so after a year. The amount of HSA contributions can be changed during the plan year. The option does not involve another insurance provider; the same insurance underwriter, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), would be filtering both plans. The HDHP/HSA option is just a different way of paying.
- The Flex 125 plan is much less flexible than this option; if the employee does not use all of his/her Flex 125 Plan funds in the plan year, they are lost to him.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Johnson /Mendoza): To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Voice vote: adopted; the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

